

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

Minor Matters of Interest in the Capital City.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17.—It was announced to-day that the Breckinridge-Pollard case No. 950 on the calendar for the October term. Trial will not be had, it is quite safe to say, during the present term, and in the opinion of several attorneys entirely conversant with the matter and with the usual progress of clearing the docket, fully 18 months or two years will elapse before the Breckinridge-Pollard case comes up in court.

MONDAY, DEC. 18.—Word was received here that Rev. Dr. Pusey had been appointed spiritual director of the American Protestant Union, the vice rector, who conveyed the papal gifts to Cardinal Gibbons on the occasion of his jubilee, has been authorized to officially depose that Mr. Sattell has been re-elected Secretary Smith authorized the purchase of additional supplies to the amount of \$30,000, pounds of beef and 120,000 pounds of flour for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians in Oklahoma, who are reported to be in a needy condition.

TUESDAY, DEC. 19.—An enthusiastic meeting of the Union Veterans' Association was held at the office of Corporal Tanner to arrange for a lecture to be given by Senator John R. Gordon, of Georgia, in January. The purpose is to raise funds for the benefit of needy comrades. The lecture will be on the closing hours at Appomattox.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20.—The greatest audience of the season gathered in the President Hall, and for the first time in its history the vast auditorium was filled with people, every one of whom had paid an admission fee. Even the reporters, who are accustomed to free admission everywhere, walked up to the box office and plunked down their little half-dollars like men, for the spirit of free-giving was in the air, and everyone wished to contribute his mite to the fund for the benefit of the Union Veterans' Association. The lecture was a concert by the Marine Band for the benefit of the District's poor.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21.—The President visited his headquarters at the reception of visitors during office hours and gave audience to nearly 20 Congressmen. Most of these got into the Cabinet chamber through the intervention of Assistant Private Secretary Prudden. There was one who was not a Congressman, because of his bitter opposition to the President's Hawaiian policy. This was Senator Frye, of Maine. The nature of his business with the President was not divulged. Among the other visitors was Secretary Morton, escorted Mr. Dabney and Mr. Willets, the incoming and outgoing Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22.—The Secretary of the Treasury requested the Secretary of State to have investigated reports coming from St. Petersburg that numbers of immigrant immigrants are being "assisted" out of Russia and sent to the United States. In case the facts should be found substantially as stated, Minister White is requested to enter a formal protest to the Russian Government in the name of the United States. Acting on these lines, Commissioners of Immigration are instructed to exercise the greatest circumspection in all cases to which the least suspicion attaches, and to cause the strictest supervision to be maintained by the United States. The Hawaiian and Brazilian questions were fully considered. Secretary Gresham received a telegram from Minister White confirming the press reports from Honolulu that the situation remains unchanged. The telegram was laid before the Cabinet. The telegram is significant as indicating the official attitude of the policy of restoring the Queen by diplomatic methods. It also indicates that the Provisional Government does not propose to commit political suicide as an accommodation to the Administration.

SATURDAY, DEC. 23.—The report of Inspector Entwistle and Architect Clark on the Ford's Theater Building as it now stands, repaired, and ready for occupancy, was laid before the President. The building is a masterpiece of the Record and Pension Office, states emphatically that the building is not safe for the housing of any considerable number of persons. In the light of this fact, it is among the probabilities that the Secretary of War will order the clerks of the Record and Pension Office to return to that building. It is believed that they will be permitted to remain in the Union Building, where they are now located, until Congress convenes and makes other provisions.

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.
A rural poet gives his impression of Washington in the following rather pertinent stanza:
It's one thing or 'other
All year, in your town,
A takin' up movements
Er layin' 'em down.

Pennsylvania is strongly against the new tariff bill. Numerous delegations from the State have been arriving in Washington recently, and one is registered at the Ebbitt this week, which is going to do all in its power to get an amendment made to the bill in favor of Pennsylvania's industries.

The establishment of Republican National Headquarters here will probably be a fact before long. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Republican Committee will shortly be held here. The date has not been determined, but Mr. Thomas H. Carter, Chairman of the Committee, in a recent letter to a friend in this city, states his belief that he will call it for Jan. 11 at the Arlington Hotel. One of the questions to be determined will be as to establishing permanent headquarters as soon as possible, with a view to co-operating with the different State Committees for an aggressive campaign.

A great many people who sit in the galleries of the House and study the tops of the heads of the politicians below them on the floor have let their eyes rest for a moment on a deep scar that ornaments the crown of the head of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The busy conclusion usually drawn is that this scar was the result of a hot skirmish during the war, in which of many which Mr. Crispenged was one of the most prominent. But all of these guesses are woefully wrong. That very visible scar is an evidence that the Speaker was once a boy. If there is anybody to doubt that assertion, he was one of your own school-boys, take care of himself and fight his own way.

One day when he was quite a little fellow he became entangled in a skirmish in which a good many stones and bricks were sent flying in the air, and it was one of those that made that scar.

There is a growing impression among Senators on both sides of the Senate Chamber that there will be no attempt made to change the rules during the debate of the extraordinary session. It is one of the traditions of the Senate that the President has a right to take possession of the Vice-President's chair while he is delivering a message, and no President has ever availed himself of the right, and that small body is still left to the second officer of the Government.

Many of the hoary-haired solons in the upper House who have so much dignity, and who so closely to tradition that such a thing as hurrying up the people's business is impossible when it is in their hands, used to have to get down to dig out a living. Nearly every one of them has had to trot about and not a few have risen stage by stage from being justices of peace and prosecuting attorneys up to the Senate. There is in Mr. Sherman, an old building in which John Sherman lived with his uncle when he was a boy. It was at Mount Vernon that Sherman got a part of his education, and they tell a story concerning him. John was a tall, bony, black-haired youth, who was full of fun and always ready to play a trick upon his teacher. He had a set of schoolmates who were as bad as himself, and some of their doings created decided sensations. The teacher was named Lord; and one day the boys went out in the country and picked up a sheep that had been killed by the dogs and brought it into town with them. They did this after dark. Taking the sheep to the school-room, they put it in through the window and crawled in after it. Then they tied it in the teacher's chair so that its front feet just rested on the desk and its face looked soberly out over the school-room. Upon its nose they fastened the teacher's spectacles, which he had forgotten, and upon the blackboard over its head John wrote in Latin a phrase which, translated, read: "A Sacrifice to the Lord."

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Many of the hoary-haired solons in the upper House who have so much dignity, and who so closely to tradition that such a thing as hurrying up the people's business is impossible when it is in their hands, used to have to get down to dig out a living. Nearly every one of them has had to trot about and not a few have risen stage by stage from being justices of peace and prosecuting attorneys up to the Senate. There is in Mr. Sherman, an old building in which John Sherman lived with his uncle when he was a boy. It was at Mount Vernon that Sherman got a part of his education, and they tell a story concerning him. John was a tall, bony, black-haired youth, who was full of fun and always ready to play a trick upon his teacher. He had a set of schoolmates who were as bad as himself, and some of their doings created decided sensations. The teacher was named Lord; and one day the boys went out in the country and picked up a sheep that had been killed by the dogs and brought it into town with them. They did this after dark. Taking the sheep to the school-room, they put it in through the window and crawled in after it. Then they tied it in the teacher's chair so that its front feet just rested on the desk and its face looked soberly out over the school-room. Upon its nose they fastened the teacher's spectacles, which he had forgotten, and upon the blackboard over its head John wrote in Latin a phrase which, translated, read: "A Sacrifice to the Lord."

The schoolmaster, Prof. Lord, was very angry when he found it, but the boys were good students and he forgave them.

The Secretary of War has awarded Medals of Honor, under the general act of Congress approved March 3, 1857, for conspicuous gallantry in action at Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863, to the following members of the 55th Ill.: Corporal Robert M. Cox and Privates Robert A. Lower and Jerome Morford, Co. K; Commissary-Sergeant Sanford, Lieut. John Warden, Co. E; Sergeant James W. Larrabee, Co. I, and Lieut. John H. Fisher, Co. B. This honor, this act of justice, thus tardily meted out to these brave and heroic men, is most worthily bestowed. The Nation that seeks to honor its brave sons, in so doing honors itself most, and is worthy only of such soldiers as these men proved themselves on that eventful day. Thirty years have rolled away since the deeds were performed entitling the comrades to this recognition and this honor, thus exemplifying the old adage, "Justice sleeps, but never dies." Thirty years have stroked their locks with gray and white, and bent their forms somewhat, but they are still capable of the same heroic service should their country call them to its defense, for, if Justice never dies, neither does true heroism ever die. The gallant 55th Ill., to which these comrades belonged, is proud of its record on this and other fields, and is proud of them, and may they live for 30 years to come to bear their well-earned honors and to tell the story of how Vicksburg fell.

There goes Judge Miller, said a pavement plodder by the name among his cronies of Meanderin' Mike. "An old acquaintance of yours, 'squire," queried Plodding Pete, a new-comer, who has not yet shown his face in the police court dock. "Oh, we are just on speakin' terms. I know 'im well enough to say 'not guilty' to 'im once in awhile."

Col. John R. Fellows, who has resigned his seat in Congress, is a very popular man, as was shown by the farewell dinner given him before he left for New York to become District Attorney. The feast was spread at Chamberlin's, and was a scene of great beauty. There were countless lights, masses of flowers and glittering silver. Speaker Crisp presided, with Col. Fellows at his right and Vice-President Stevenson at his left. Other guests were Secretary Herbert, Secretary Gresham, Postmaster-General Bissell, Senator Hill, Senator Murphy, Senator Blackburn, ex-Speaker Reed, Congressmen Daniels, Van Voorhis, Tracey, Bartlett, Sickles, Belden, W. Bourke Cockran, Schermerhorn, James Cummings, McHenry, Burrows, Amos E. Brown, Joseph H. O'Neill, Catchings, Caruth, John C. Black, Cadmus, Haines, W. C. P. Breckinridge, John M. Allen, Marcus A. Smith, McKee, McKim, Price, Settle, Dimmore, Patterson, English, Hall, Cameron, Lockwood, Denney and W. L. Wilson, and the actor Nat Goodwin.

The omission of the Bureau of American Republics from the estimates of the Department of State has been looked upon as an announcement that the Administration did not propose to continue the establishment.

This inference overlooks the fact that the bureau was established for a term of years to continue until 1900, by an international agreement with the Republics of Central and South America. Its status as an international affair probably led the Department to exclude it from the estimates for the bureau, as the recent decision of the First Controller of the Treasury gives it an established standing.

Secretary Blaine originated the bureau as a part of his policy for establishing closer relations with our Southern neighbors. His friends do not intend to let his work die, for last week Senator Hale introduced a bill appropriating \$30,000 to continue the work for the bureau during 1895.

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